

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG UTILITIES

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For more information about the  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities  
Backflow Prevention Program,  
call us at (704) 399-2426  
— use extensions 291, 295 or 294.

Or you can contact us  
via our website at  
[www.cmutilities.com](http://www.cmutilities.com)



# BACKFLOW PREVENTION



## PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER

# PROTECTING WATER

## Keeping Your Water Safe

When you turn on your faucet, you expect the water to be as fresh and pure as it was when it left the treatment plant. However, certain connections left unprotected within your plumbing system may allow hazardous substances to contaminate your own drinking water, or even the public's water supply.

People often think water moves in only one direction through the distribution system. But under certain pressure conditions, water can actually travel backwards. This is known as backflow, and if a customer's water line is connected to any substance not fit for drinking, then the unfit substance could be pulled backwards through the water distribution system.

Lawn irrigation systems, hospitals, and manufacturing plants are just some potential hazards that connect to the public water system.

The key to protecting your safety is having proper backflow measures in place and making sure backflow devices are regularly maintained as required.



## Backflow Prevention Devices

### *Backflow Fact:*

Lawn  
irrigation  
comprises  
80%  
of all  
backflow  
customers  
in  
Charlotte-  
Mecklenburg.

All industrial, commercial, and irrigation customers must install and maintain backflow prevention devices at every service connection to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities. These devices should be installed before any new connections to the private system are made.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities created the Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Program to prevent potential contamination of the public water system. Federal law requires water suppliers to take actions like these to ensure that water delivered to your home or business remains clean and safe.

Utilities will let you know what type of device is required for you since not all customers need the same type. A Utilities-approved and certified tester must test the device upon installation, and annually thereafter. If you need a list of approved testers, please contact us and we'll be glad to help.

## Other Ways To Protect Your Water at Home

- Disconnect garden hoses from your outdoor faucets when not in use.
- Be sure a hose bib vacuum breaker is installed between your outdoor faucet and the hose. These small attachments are inexpensive and available at your local hardware. The air gap within these devices prevents backflow from occurring into your indoor plumbing.
- If you're using an aspirator attachment on your hose, be sure a hose bib vacuum breaker is in place between the nozzle and the hose to prevent backflow.



*Use this hose bib vacuum breaker to help prevent backflow from entering your indoor plumbing.*

